

Journal #5689 from sdc 3.29.24

Being indigenous is living in two worlds and still winning

Summer 2024 International Hosting Opportunities

The push for a Las Vegas national monument

Thoughts

Corn

Season's Greetings

Off topic but interesting

[posted by Summer Dressler](#)



[Seeing Red Media](#)

Balance



Two Eyed Seeing is something I learned in university

and it explains the ability to see value within Indigenous knowledges as well as Western knowledges. We all have something to offer.

[@imlookingforo](#)

[#IndigenousArtists](#) [#IndigenousMade](#) [#IndigenousArt](#) [#Contemporary](#) [#TwoEyedSeeing](#)

[#IndigenousPeople](#)

Summer 2024 Hosting Opportunities



We are seeking community hosts in Reno to provide diverse groups with authentic American life experience during a short-term stay in the summer. Consider becoming a host family to international visitors (more details below) from around the world participating in different programs administered by NNIC this summer.

SUSI Rule of Law and Public Service

NNIC facilitates the John McCain Study of the U.S. Institutes program for Student Leaders, hosting undergraduates between ages 18-25 from various countries to focus on the Rule of Law and Public Service in the U.S. Participant country of origin are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, and Zambia.

Homestay dates: Friday, June 28 - Sunday, June 30 (two nights)
Contact: Sara Jones at susi@nnic.org

If your community has a handgame, powwow, or special event during this time, be sure to invite all or a small group to attend it. Each one of the countries listed above has ethnic minorities experiencing many of the same issues as American tribal communities. You have the opportunity to inform as well as to send visitors home with some new ideas, perspectives and energy.



Mandela Washington Fellowship

The Mandela Washington Fellowship program empowers young African leaders through a six week long Leadership in Business Institute which includes academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, and community engagement. The Fellows, 25-35 years old and from sub-Saharan Africa, are accomplished leaders and have established records of promoting innovation and positive impacts in their communities and home countries. We invite you to host a group of 3-5 Fellows for Friday night dinners throughout their time in Reno this summer!

From very personal experience, I can tell you that this is always a group of most fantastic people!

SUSI GSL on Climate Change and Environment

NNIC is hosting international undergraduate students to participate in The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Global Student Leaders, on Climate Change and the Environment (SUSI GSL). Participants will engage in an intensive academic program and engage in volunteer activities and cultural excursions.

Homestay dates: Friday, July 12- Sunday, July 14, 2024 (two nights)
Contact: Ryan Finnegan at susi@nnic.org

Friday Evening Home Hosted Dinner Dates:

June 21st
June 28th
July 12th
July 19th

Contact: Jennae Frederick at jfrederick@nnic.org

Fill out the survey using the button below!

It is now secret that we humanoids are all one specie inhabiting the ecosystem known as Mother Earth.

The cultural conflicts between native and invading species across the globe is the history of mankind, not just that of invasive plants.

This is your opportunity to provide tribal knowledge, perspective and wisdom as well as what

your/your community is doing to protect land, water and other species so that the international chain of concern is amplified and enlarged.



MWF 2024 Dinner Host Interest Survey

The Youth Leadership Program with Algeria

The Youth Leadership Program with Algeria is a leadership development opportunity for Algerian and American youth, ages 15-17, that provides the participants with the skills and support they need to complete service projects in their local communities after the summer program.

Homestay dates: July 6-20

Contact: Danya Peters at dpeters@nnic.org



Engaging with emergent international leaders is an easy - and fun - way to present indigenous American concerns to the world. Not only may you gain a pen pal (now epal!?) for life, you may also gain a travel destination.

Beyond that, person-to-person diplomacy is one of the best ways to educate people from different backgrounds, different geographies and different heritages about differences of public policy and cultural conflict without bombing, imperialism or other life ending behaviors.

It is up to you.

from one of my fav local reporters:

Good morning, and welcome to the Indy Environment newsletter. I'm Amy Alonzo, the environment reporter for The Indy.

In the late 1990s, my high school had an environmental club. With just a handful of members, we did a yearly cleanup project and wore T-shirts that said things like “save the manatees” — even though I doubt any of us had ever seen one.

The environmental movement has come a long way since then. I've seen 6-year-olds picking up garbage on the street who told me littering “makes the Earth sick.”

Some people say it's too much — others say it's about time.

Either way, it's hard not to notice a shift in conservation from the protection of distant objects and places to those that are personal and close to us — such as a geographically important area in east Las Vegas.

As always, we want to hear from readers. Let us know what you're seeing on the ground and how policies are affecting you. Email tips to me at amy@thenvindy.com.

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## **Indy Environment: The push for a Las Vegas national monument**

For decades, national monuments have been set aside by presidential proclamation to expediently protect threatened areas and resources. But that edict-from-on-high mentality is changing, and a community push for a national monument in east Las Vegas highlights that shift.

Community members and conservation groups are rallying to turn roughly 32,000 acres of public land east of Las Vegas into the state's next national monument, where endangered flowers, geologic features seen in few other places but the Grand Canyon and culturally significant Indigenous sites are threatened by ongoing vandalism. Those pushing for monument status are hoping a federal designation could provide greater protections.

“It's no longer a matter of the president going and randomly pointing to landscapes and places and designating them,” said Bertha Gutierrez, program director at Conservation Lands Foundation, a group that helped advocate for the formation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Southern Nevada. “It's a way to really manage public lands through what the community and users really want ... Hearing the voices in the community saying this place is special, this is our sacred space.”

The push for East Las Vegas National Monument — the unofficial name used by supporters — has the backing of the Clark County Commission and state lawmakers, who passed resolutions in 2021 in support of enhanced protections for the site.

A similar process played out in 2023, leading President Joe Biden to proclaim Avi Kwa Ame National Monument as Nevada's fourth following a groundswell of support by tribes and

conservation groups. Supporters of East Las Vegas, as well as those behind Bahsahwahbee, or Swamp Cedars, in eastern Nevada, are hoping to be numbers five and six.

The odds are in their favor. Biden is [on track to set a record](#) for the most public land protected by a recent president during his first term, much of that spurred by a “groundswell” of community and tribal efforts, according to Aaron Weiss, deputy director of the Center for Western Priorities.

“People are paying attention to how much the White House is listening to folks on the ground,” he said.

### **‘An area that is safe and accessible’**

Around the world, there are gaps in geologic layers known as “unconformities.” The most famous of these is the [Great Unconformity](#), where 1.7-billion-year-old rocks abut half-billion-year-old rocks with a geologic gap of 1.2 billion years in between.

The Great Unconformity can be seen by trekking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon — or by taking a short drive to east Las Vegas’ Frenchman Mountain. The mountain is part of the proposed national monument site.

“There’s a definite connection with the Grand Canyon’s and Frenchman Mountain’s geology,” said Steve Rowland, a former UNLV geology professor and president of Citizens for Active Management of the Sunrise Frenchman Mountain Area, a group that for decades has advocated for the protection of the east Las Vegas region.”

“There’s nowhere else in the world that has the spectacular geology as easily exposed as in the Frenchman Mountains and Rainbow Garden area,” he told lawmakers in 2021. “This is really national-park, world-class geology.”

Rowland and other advocates say the Great Unconformity is just one of the many features a national monument designation for the more than 32,600 acres on the border of Lake Mead National Recreation Area would protect.

Much of the area is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Rainbow Gardens Area of Critical Environmental Concern because of its unique geology and rare plants. It is home to the Las Vegas Bearpoppy, a perennial yellow flower that grows only in Clark County and is listed as “critically endangered” by the state of Nevada, as well as the Gypsum Cave, an important spiritual site for Southern Paiute people. A spokeswoman for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe did not return multiple calls from *The Nevada Independent* seeking comment.

But BLM management of the site has been minimal, according to Rowland and others, and there’s a long history of illegal dumping in the area.

“There’s a lot of parties, they leave trash behind, illegal shooting with a lot of debris,” Gutierrez said.

In the 1990s, Rowland and other volunteers worked with the BLM to construct interpretive panels at Frenchman Mountain and the Great Unconformity. Former Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) and then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt attended the dedication ceremony.

The interpretive panels were destroyed by vandals and ultimately removed. In 2018, the [body of a homicide victim](#) was found near Frenchman Mountain Road.

The area needs better management, Gutierrez said. It also needs more buy-in from the local community

“It needs us to be a little more responsible in picking up after ourselves and not doing the damage,” she said. That’s why advocates of the national monument are pushing for community and tribal support of the project — raising awareness with locals about the value of the area and the importance of it being accessible.”

“If you see a map of the Vegas valley, everybody has free accessible public lands except for the east side,” Gutierrez said.

Henderson backs up to Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. Summerlin is just a stone’s throw from Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The north side of Las Vegas is flanked by the Spring Mountains, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument and the new Ice Age Fossils State Park.

“You get to the east side, and you don’t have an area that is safe and accessible,” she said.

In 2021, both the [Clark County Commission](#) and [Nevada lawmakers](#) passed resolutions calling for enhanced management and protection of the site.

But a resolution isn’t enough, Rowland said.

“We need to get our elected officials properly engaged,” he said.

### **‘A sense of urgency’**

[Congress has the authority](#) to designate any type of national park, from historic sites and battlefields to seashores to national monuments, by passing legislation. But only the president can use the 1906 [Antiquities Act](#) to go around that process and quickly protect sensitive resources by creating a national monument.

In the century since it was passed, more than 130 national monuments have been designated under the Antiquities Act, and just how they are set aside has become a politically divisive issue.

Some monuments are less than 1 acre in size — Stonewall National Monument in New York is just 0.12 acres — while others span hundreds of millions of acres, such as Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which protects 372.9 million acres of waterways.

Other presidents have used their monument power to undo or expand on the actions of presidents before them — on his first day in office, President [Biden](#) issued an executive order calling for a review of boundaries and management conditions on three monuments that were altered by former President Donald Trump, including two in Utah.

Thus far, Biden has designated five new national monuments, securing protections for more than [1.5 million acres](#) of public land, including the nearly 507,000-acre Avi Kwa Ame monument in Southern Nevada.

The monument centers around Avi Kwa Ame, or “Spirit Mountain,” and is among the most sacred places for the Mojave, Chemehuevi and some Southern Paiute people. It is also home to Joshua tree forests and provides an important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise and Gila monster.

It became Nevada's fourth national monument and its first in nearly a decade.

In response to Avi Kwa Ame's designation, Nevada [Gov. Joe Lombardo complained](#) that the Biden administration had not consulted with his administration after he took office in 2023 and that the new monument was a "federal confiscation" that conflicts with "long-planned, bipartisan economic development efforts.

Over the past few years, support has also swelled for the creation of [Bahsahwahbee National Monument](#) in eastern Nevada. The site, also known as Swamp Cedars, is sacred to the Shoshone and Goshute communities. The proposed monument encompasses a grove of Rocky Mountain juniper trees in White Pine County that tribal history marks as the site of three massacres.

In 2021, the [Nevada Legislature](#) passed a resolution calling for protection of Bahsahwahbee through the Antiquities Act.

Now, the work is to continue garnering local support for protection of Nevada's lands.

"With the East Las Vegas effort, we still have a lot of ground to cover and more conversations to be had," Gutierrez said.

Republican lawmakers are challenging the presidential power granted through the Antiquities Act, although the bills have little chance of success with a Democratic Senate majority. The [bills](#) would require [congressional approval](#) of any site designated by the act within six months of its designation; without approval, the site will be [ineligible for protection](#) for 25 years.

Efforts to gather community support are challenged by the need to expediently address the climate crisis and preserve ecosystems and cultural spaces before they are gone.

"There's a sense of urgency," Weiss said.

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Read more: Officials: [Error led to routing planned transmission line through national monument](#)

Here's what else I'm (Amy) reading this week:

My co-worker [Tabitha Mueller](#) recaps a request by Gov. Joe Lombardo seeking a streamlined process to make federal land available for affordable housing, and [High Country News](#) also takes a look at housing and public land.

Los Angeles pipes water from the Eastern Sierra. For decades, Las Vegas sought approval to pipe water from eastern Nevada. Now, California is one step closer to moving forward with its Delta Conveyance Project, which would move water across the state in a tunnel. The [L.A. Times](#) has more.

A proposed Southern Nevada solar field would threaten prime desert tortoise habitat, according to the [Nevada Current](#).



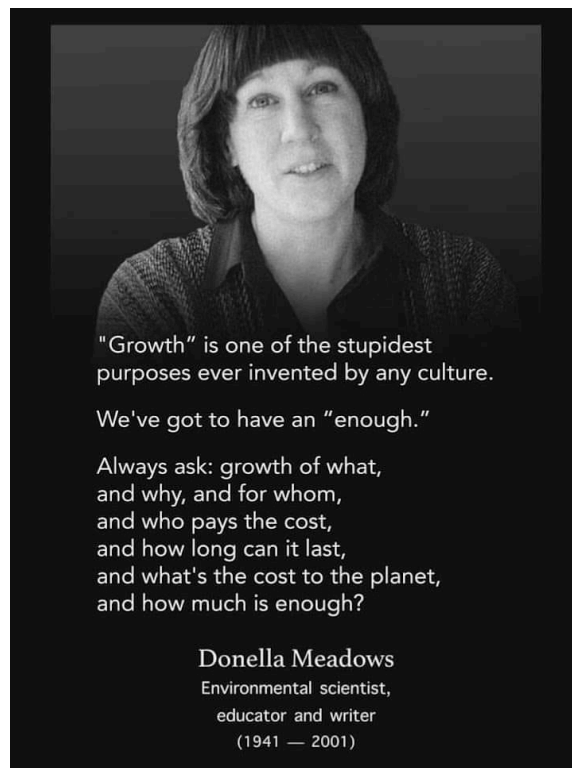
Petrified rock - 35M years - McDermitt

Children from a very young age should be taught that the Sun rises in the East and sets in the West, that if you point your right hand to the East, your face will face North and your back will face South, that the direction of the water in a river is the direction towards the sea, that the Moon rises in the East and sets in the West, that if there is no moon there is a star that indicates the north and your latitude, that the more to the horizon you see the Polar Star, the closer You are from Equator, if you see a bird in the middle of the sea it is because there is land where it flies. Respect and love for animals, trees, the earth and the elements that give us life.

Teach them all this before giving him a cell phone because the cell phone runs out and the signal is lost... wisdom is never lost.

Let's not let them lose connection.

~ Author Unknown



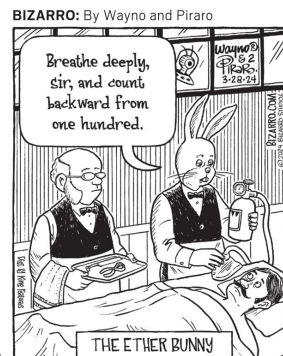
Bixi Nibe updated her cover photo.

Most of the world's corn has been genetically manipulated by the evil Science - sadly. It is South America "the breast of Mother Earth" that produces and still guards the purest biological



diversity.

All color potatoes too. Cushuro is a MUST try. In time will be as famous as quinoa as a super food. Peru so exciting!



Seasons' greetings

Inappropriate placement but no other room.

Totally off-topic but interesting (it is Friday)

21 Facts about Australia you didn't know!

1. The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps.
2. 90% of Australians live on the coast.
3. Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world.
4. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest ecosystem in the world. It is made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs and can be seen from space.
5. Australia has over 60 separate wine regions.
6. Fraser Island in QLD is the largest sand island in the world.
7. The Indian Pacific train has the longest straight section of train track in the world.
8. The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial.
9. 80% of Australian animals are unique to Australia.
10. Australia has the world's longest golf course measuring more than 1,350 kms long.
11. Australia is home to 21 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes.
12. It would take around 29 years to visit one new Aussie beach every day – there are 10,685 of them!
13. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world.
14. 91% of the country is covered by native vegetation.
15. 33% of Australians were born in another country.
16. Australia is the only continent in the world without an active volcano.
17. Australia is home to the longest fence in the world, the Dingo Fence. Originally built to keep dingos away from fertile land, the fence is now 5,614 km long.
18. The Australian dollar is considered to be the most advanced currency in the world – its waterproof, made of polymer and notoriously hard to counterfeit.
19. Australia is the only continent covered by a single country.
20. The world's oldest fossil was discovered in Australia – 3.4 billion years old.
21. Australia is home to more than 1,500 species of spiders.



Me, today, all deadlines met! Enjoy your weekend. sdc